

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00957 161029Z

17
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 160838Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6935
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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RUFNPSAMEMBASSY PARIS 771
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
EC BRUSSELS 273
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DIA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MT
SUBJ: MALTESE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD
SEPTEMBER 17-18

1. ON THE ADVICE OF PRIME MINISTER DOM MINTOFF, MALTESE
PRESIDENT SIR ANTHONY MAMO OFFICIALLY DISSOLVED PARLIAMENT
ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 13. THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION WAS
ISSUED ONLY TWO DAYS BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF PARLIAMENT'S
FIVE-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE ESTABLISHED BY THE CONSTITUTION.

2. ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, PRESIDENT MAMO ISSUED
A SECOND PROCLAMATION ANNOUNCING THE ELECTION DATES FOR
A NEW PARLIAMENT AS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AND SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18.

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PAGE 02 VALLET 00957 161029Z

3. A TOTAL OF 217,785 MALTESE ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

IN SEPTEMBER, INCLUDING THE NEWLY-ENFRANCHISED
18 TO 21 YEAR OLD CITIZENS, COMPARED WITH ONLY 169,000
WHO VOTED IN 1971. THEY WILL ELECT 65 MEMBERS OF THE
NEW UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE (FIVE FROM EACH OF
THIRTEEN DISTRICTS), COMPARED WITH 55 SEATS IN THE
NOW-DISSOLVED CHAMBER.

4. THE POLLS WILL CLOSE AT SUNDOWN ON SEPTEMBER 18,
AND THE OFFICIAL COUNTING OF BALLOTS WILL BEGIN ON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19. DUE TO MALTA'S COMPLICATED
PREFERENTIAL VOTING SYSTEM, THE FINAL RESULTS PROBABLY
WILL NOT BE KNOWN BEFORE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20.

5. IT IS REQUESTED THAT EUR/WE INFORM AMBASSADOR SMITH
OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. WIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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